pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a growing dissatisfaction and discontentment among the farm scientists in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research resulting in substantial slowing down of the research process in the development of farm teghnologies in respect of dry land and rainfed agriculture;

(b) if so, what are the main causes for the growing frustration among the ICAR's farm scientists and the extent to which the research work has suffered a set back as a consequence thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

Improvement in jute yield

1522. SHRI JIBON ROY :

SHRI E. BALANANDAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a possibility to augment jute yield by about 20 per cent if quality seeds in required quantity are distributed by the national and state seed corporations to the farmers; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Jute yield can be increased with the use of certified seeds as against the use of non descript uncertified seeds. Under Special Jute Development Programme, certified seed of jute is distributed through State Seeds Corporation and other State agencies.

Projected shift of agricultural land towards Export

1523. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the projected shift in the area of land for agricultural production towards exports in the next 3 years; and

(b) what will be the impact of such a shift in terms of the output of the production of crops which contribute to the daily domestic consumption basket ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The shift in area of land towards export in the next 3 years would be only at margin as increase in production of export oriented crops would be mainly aimed through increasing the productivity and improving the quality of products.

(b) Output of production of crops of domestic consumption basket would not be influenced as production of those crops would be increased through improvement in productivity per hectare.

Representation by tobacco growers

1524. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO :
SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received representations from tobacco growers of Karnataka to oppose the anti-tobacco legislation mooted by the Health Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of representations received from Karnataka in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to assist the growers in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Representation is regarding issues related to proposed legislation by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to ban advertisement of Tobacco and tobacco products and setting up an expert Committee to study the impact of legislation on Tobacco farmers. Ministry is advising farmers for diversification and switch over to other remuneration crops.

Assistance for resettlement of earthquake Victims

1525. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what Central Assistance and World Bank and other foreign assistance has, so far